

AGENDA ITEM 5: Executive Director report – March 19, 2015

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Requested Action: **Receive report**

Executive Director Report

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Program and Project Update

1. **Delta National Heritage Area (NHA):** The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area legislation was reintroduced in Congress on March 3. S. 630 was introduced by Senator Feinstein (co-sponsored by Senator Boxer) and H.R. 1208 was introduced by Congressman Garamendi (co-sponsored by Congressmembers Matsui, Thompson, DeSaulnier and McNerney). The bills are largely identical to the legislation that was introduced in the previous Congress.

In a related effort, noted landscape artist Gregory Kondos and his wife Moni Van Camp are coordinating a show of Delta landscapes by multiple artists – titled “Delta FOREVER” – to be presented on Memorial Day weekend in Courtland. Organized in support of the NHA legislation, arrangements are being made for the show to travel to other area museums.

2. **Delta Heritage Area Initiative (DelHAI):**

Locke Centennial - The Commission is a sponsor of the Locke Centennial celebration on the afternoon of May 9. The Locke Foundation is organizing the celebration that will feature a luncheon and program.

Delta Specialty Crops and CDEA Grant Submittal - Commission staff prepared a concept proposal for the California Department of Food and Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant program that focuses on three ways to promote specialty crops grown in the Delta. The concept was accepted and a full application is being prepared for the next phase of evaluation. The grants will be awarded in October 2015; if funded, the project will begin in early 2016.

Delta Awareness Campaign: The second phase of the Delta Awareness Campaign has begun. A contractor was selected and a Marketing Task Force of Delta business owners has been created, including members of the DPAC Marketing Subcommittee. The Task Force is currently providing input on promotion concepts for the second phase.

3. **Bay Delta Conservation Plan:** Although there has not yet been a date announced for the release of the recirculated draft EIS/EIR, it is anticipated to be released as early as April. Commission staff anticipate reporting on this at the May 21 Commission meeting. Although we do not know how many of the Commission’s comments are being

incorporated into the recirculated document, it is anticipated that the Commission will offer comments on the new document.

4. **DPC Land Use Comments:** As part of our responsibility to ensure that local land use decisions in the Delta are consistent with the Land Use and Resource Management Plan (LURMP), Commission staff prepare comment letters to advise local agencies on their projects' consistency with the LURMP. The chart below lists the comment letters prepared by Commission staff from January 9, 2015 through March 11, 2015.

LAND USE PROJECTS – COMMENT LETTERS PROVIDED
January 9, 2015 to March 11, 2015

County	Project	Total Projects	Substantial	Primary Zone	Secondary Zone	In Both Zones
Contra Costa	• None	0	0	0	0	0
Sacramento	• None	0	0	0	0	0
San Joaquin	• River Islands at Lathrop Phase 2B (4900 ac.)	1	1	0	1	0
Solano	• None	0	0	0	0	0
Yolo	• None	0	0	0	0	0
Multi-County	• Sacramento River Bank Protection Project (80,000 l.f. in and outside of Legal Delta)	1	1	0	0	1
Totals		2	2	0	1	1

5. **Delta Emergency Drought Barriers:** The proposed emergency drought barriers to repel saltwater intrusion into the interior Delta would have significant impacts on Delta agriculture and recreation, if installed. The Commission formally requested the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to extend its comment deadline on the permit required for the Department of Water Resources to install emergency drought barriers; the Corps agreed to extend its deadline to March 30. The Commission is also finalizing a comment letter on the Department's proposed environmental documents; comment letters are due March 18 and the Commission's letter will be shared with Commissioners at the March 19 meeting.

Administrative Update

1. **Commission Membership:** The Commission welcomed San Joaquin County Supervisor Bob Elliott as a new member at the January 15 meeting; Supervisor Kathy Miller was named as the alternate member. Since that time, the Senate Rules Committee named Senator Cathleen Galgiani as the ex-officio member representing the State Senate, and Assemblyman Jim Frazier was re-appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly as the ex-officio member representing the State Assembly. On March 5, Stockton Mayor Anthony Silva was named to represent the cities of San Joaquin County on the Commission, with Lodi Councilman Alan Nakanishi as the alternate member.

2. **Commission Staffing:** The Commission is pleased to welcome Jennifer Ruffolo as a program manager. Jennifer will manage the Delta Flood Risk Management Assessment District feasibility study, Land Use and Resource Management Plan update and Economic Sustainability Plan update, among other responsibilities.

We are conducting initial interviews for a staff planner position prior to the Commission meeting, and expect to advertise soon to fill the Commission Clerk position permanently.

3. **FY 2015-16 Commission Budget:** The Governor’s proposed FY 2015-16 budget was released on January 9 with a proposed reduction in Environmental License Plate Fund support (approximately \$80,000). The Commission’s budget will be heard in the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee on March 19; more information will be presented at the Commission meeting. It should also be noted that the Commission has a statutory mandate to amend (as determined to be necessary) the Economic Sustainability Plan in 2016; the Governor’s proposed FY 2015-16 budget did not include any funding for an update of the Economic Sustainability Plan.

The next Delta Protection Commission meeting will be on May 21 in Courtland. The Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee will meet on May 11 in Sacramento.